

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title	Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching Program - Placer
Brief Description	<p>In 2008 the SNC approved a grant to the Georgetown/EL Dorado Resource Conservation District to partner with the nonprofit organization the Ca. Land Stewardship institute (CLSI) to develop and implement a version of their highly successful program Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) Environmental Certification in El Dorado County. Through this grant the FFF program certification has become a desired goal by the many small farmers in El Dorado County including wineries and grapegrowers, apple and other fruit and nut growers and Christmas tree farms. Additionally growers and environmental groups in nearby counties have requested the FFF program. Ranchers have also expressed interest in the Fish Friendly Ranching (FFR) program recently established statewide by CLSI. CLSI would like to establish a regional FFF/FFR program in the Sierra foothills by working in a number of separate counties. This proposal would provide for the establishment and implementation of the FFF/FFR programs on over 2,000 acres of farm and ranch land in the Sierra foothills of Placer County. Placer County has 1435 acres of vineyards and orchards, 130,000 acres of rangeland and 18,000 acres of irrigated pasture (2011 Crop Report).</p> <p>Water quality impairment from agricultural and ranch lands in the central Sierra are from nonpoint sources, or widely distributed locations that each generate small amounts of sediment and pesticide/herbicide pollutants. Agricultural operations in this area use low volumes of irrigation water and do not generate return flows, a major source of pollutants in the Central Valley, Instead pollutants are generated through storm water runoff or direct drift or spillage of pesticides. Ranches have similar mechanisms of pollutant delivery - stormwater runoff transports sediment and pathogen bacteria into waterways. Numerous water quality studies recognize that nonpoint source pollution has to be addressed through implementation of best management practices (BMPs) such as filterstrips, cover crops and critical area planting, riparian revegetation, drainage improvements and road repair to minimize the potential for soil erosion and pesticide runoff before storm events. The FFF program has successfully implemented these improvements on over 120,000 acres statewide and 2750 acres in the Sierra foothills.</p> <p>The goals of the FFF/FFR programs are to implement BMPs on a watershed basis on private farm and ranchland to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve and sustain high levels of water quality in rivers, lakes and streams consistent with Prop. 84; • Improve and sustain riparian corridors and wetlands; • Sustain and preserve working landscapes and the economic uses of land; • Increase opportunities for agricultural tourism through promotion of FFF certified sites and labeled products. <p>Fulfillment of these goals provides a clear public benefit well beyond each</p>

	<p>farm or ranch by restoration and improvement of natural resources in the American River watershed.</p> <p>CLSI will work cooperatively with local RCD, Farm Bureaus, agricultural and ranching organizations to introduce the program to Placer County and have it included in ongoing water quality regulatory processes for irrigated and grazing lands. We will set up workshops and site visits to implement the 38 farming BMPs and 36 ranching BMPs to improve water quality and riparian and wetland habitats on 2,000 acres in Placer County. Nonpoint sources constitute the primary water quality impairment in this region. BMPs have to be implemented on all agricultural and ranch lands to create watershed wide improvements; therefore, we will reach out to a broad group of landowners to enroll their property. On each site a comprehensive sediment source inventory and BMP implementation will be completed along with a thorough stream and wetland restoration and revegetation program. Enrollment agreements will accomplish SNC's land tenure requirement and the highly desired FFF certification will occur following implementation of BMPs. The certification is done by the County Agricultural Commissioner, the regulatory agency for pesticides, and by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the federal agency with the greatest degree of expertise in implementing soil and water conservation. We are also considering adding UC Cooperative Extension. The FFF certification logo is currently used in site signage, marketing and product labeling under CLSI administrative control and represents an economic incentive for environmental improvements. This approach reflects the multiple goals of SNC's mission.</p> <p>The BMPs to be implemented on the 2,000 acres include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of winter cover crops and critical area plantings on all farmed land to protect soil against sheet or rain strike erosion; • Elimination of wet weather tillage; • Installation of erosion control on field roads, ranch roads and year round roads; • Installation of vegetated filter strips adjacent to all waterways; • Stabilization and revegetation of all
Total Requested Amount	75,000.00
Other Fund Proposed	59,000.00
Total Project Cost	134,000.00
Project Category	Pre-Project Due Diligence
Project Area/Size	0000
Project Area Type	Not Applicable
Have you submitted to SNC this fiscal year?	No
Is this application related to other SNC funding?	No

Project Results
Environmental site assessment (Phase I/II)

Project Purpose	Project Purpose Percent
Water Quality	

County
Placer

Sub Region
Central

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Ms. Laurel Marcus,
Title	Executive Director
Organization	California Land Stewardship Institute
Primary Address	550 Gateway Dr. #108, , , Napa, CA, 94558
Primary Phone/Fax	707-253-1226 Ext.
Primary Email	laurelm@fishfriendlyfarming.org

PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION

Project Location

Address: Project will address a broad area of farm and ranch land, , , none,
CA, 00000 United States
Water Agency: Placer County Water
Latitude: 38o 45' 48 N
Longitude: 120 o 30' 7" W
Congressional District: n/a
Senate: n/a
Assembly: n/a
Within City Limits: No
City Name:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grant Application Type

PROJECT OTHER CONTACTS INFORMATION

Other Grant Project Contacts
Name: Derek Hitchcock, Project Role: Day-to-Day Responsibility Phone: 7072531226 Phone Ext: E-mail: derekh@fishfriendlyfarming.org

UPLOADS

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name
Completed Application Checklist
Table of Contents
Full Application Form
Authorization to Apply or Resolution
Narrative Descriptions
CEQA Documentation
Detailed Budget Form
Letters of Support
Long Term Management Plan
Project Location Map
Parcel Map Showing County Assessors Parcel Number
Topographic Map
Photos of the Project Site
Land Tenure- Only for Site Improvement Projects

To preserve the integrity of the uploaded document, headers, footers and page numbers have not been added by the system.

Instructions for use of this form:

1. Scroll down and check the box indicating completion of requested information in the appropriate format.

- You can move among the boxes by using your mouse or the “Tab” key.

2. When you have completed the form, print and sign at the bottom.

Please note: Adobe® Reader® does not allow you to save your work. It is very important that you print out your form immediately after completing it.

Appendix B1

Full Application Checklist

Project Name: Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching - Placer County EG ID#: 737

Applicant: California Land Stewardship Institute

Please mark each box: check if item is included in the application; mark “N/A” if not applicable to the project. “N/A” identifications must be explained in the application. Please consult with SNC staff prior to submission if you have any questions about the applicability to your project of any items on the checklist. All applications must include a CD including an electronic file of each checklist item, if applicable. The naming convention for each electronic file is listed after each item on the checklist. (Electronic File Name = EFN: “naming convention”. file extension choices)

Submission requirements for all Category One and Category Two Grant Applications

- ☒ Completed Application Checklist (EFN: *Checklist.pdf*)
- ☒ Table of Contents (EFN: *TOC.doc or .docx*)
- ☒ Full Application Project Information Form (EFN: *fapi.doc or .docx*)
- ☒ Authorization to Apply or Resolution (EFN: *authorization.doc or .docx*)
- ☒ Narrative Descriptions - Submit a single document (maximum 10 pages, Arial 12 pt font, 1 inch margins) that includes each of the following narrative descriptions (EFN: *Narrative.doc or .docx*)
 - ☒ Detailed Project Description
 - ☒ Project Description including Goals/Results, Scope of Work, Location, Purpose, etc.
 - ☒ Project Summary
 - ☒ Environmental Setting
 - ☒ Workplan and Schedule
 - ☐ Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements – Category 1 projects only
 - ☒ Organizational Capacity

- e. ☒ Cooperation and Community Support
 - f. ☒ Long Term Management and Sustainability
 - g. ☒ Performance Measures
6. Supplemental and Supporting documents
- a. ☒ CEQA/NEPA Compliance Form (EFN: *CEQAform.doc or .docx*)
 - ☐ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation (EFN: *CEQA.pdf*)
 - ☐ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation (EFN: *NEPA.pdf*)
 - b. ☒ Detailed Budget Form (EFN: *Budget.xls, .xlsx*)
 - c. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements, as applicable – Category 1 projects only
 - ☐ Restrictions / Agreements (EFN: *RestAgree.pdf*)
 - ☐ Regulatory Requirements / Permits (EFN: *RegPermit.pdf*)
 - d. Cooperation and Community Support
 - ☒ Letters of Support (EFN: *LOS.doc, .docx or .pdf*)
 - e. Long-Term Management and Sustainability
 - ☒ Long-Term Management Plan (EFN: *LTMP.pdf*)
 - f. Maps and Photos
 - ☒ Project Location Map (EFN: *LocMap.pdf*)
 - ☒ Parcel Map showing County Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (EFN: *ParcelMap.pdf*)
 - ☒ Topographic Map (EFN: *Topo.pdf*)
 - ☒ Photos of the Project Site (10 maximum) (EFN: *Photo.jpg, .gif*)
 - g. Additional submission requirements for Conservation Easement Acquisition applications only
 - ☐ Acquisition Schedule (EFN: *acqSched.doc,.docx,.rtf,.pdf*)
 - ☐ Willing Seller Letter (EFN: *WillSell.pdf*)
 - ☐ Real Estate Appraisal (EFN: *Appraisal.pdf*)
 - ☐ Conservation Easement Language (EFN: *CE.pdf*)
 - ☐ Third Party Transfer Acknowledgment Letter (if applicable) (EFN: *Transfer.pdf*)
 - h. Additional submission requirements for Site Improvement / Restoration Project applications only
 - ☒ Land Tenure Documents – attach only if documentation was not included with Pre-application (EFN: *Tenure.pdf*)
 - ☐ Site Plan (EFN: *SitePlan.pdf*)
 - ☐ Leases or Agreements (EFN: *LeaseAgmnt.pdf*)

I certify that the information contained in the Application, including required attachments, is accurate.

Signed (Authorized Representative)

10/22/12

Date

Laurel Marcus Executive Director

Name and Title (*print or type*)

Table of Contents

Completed Application Checklist	checklist.pdf
Full Application Project Information Form	fapi.pdf
Authorization to Apply or Resolution	authorization.pdf
Narrative Descriptions: Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching – Placer County #737	Narrative.doc
Detailed Project Description.....	1
<i>Environmental Setting</i>	1
<i>Goals</i>	2
<i>Project Description</i>	3
<i>Project Summary</i>	5
Workplan and Schedule.....	6
Organizational Capacity.....	8
Cooperation and Community Support.....	8
Long Term Management and Sustainability.....	8
Performance Measures.....	9
Budget Narrative.....	10
Supplemental and Supporting Documents	
CEQA/NEPA Compliance Form.....	CEQAform.doc
Detailed Budget Form.....	Budget.xls
Cooperation and Community Support <i>Letters of Support</i>	LOS.pdf
Long-Term Management and Sustainability <i>Long-Term Management Plan</i>	LTMP.pdf

Maps and Photos

Project Location Map.....LocMap.pdf

Parcel Map.....ParcelMap.pdf

Topographic Map.....Topo.pdf

Photos of the Project Site.....Photo.docx

Additional Submission Requirements

Land Tenure Documents.....Tenure.pdf

Instructions for use of this form:

1. Scroll down and check the box indicating completion of requested information in the appropriate format.

- You can move among the boxes by using your mouse or the "Tab" key.

2. When you have completed the form, print and sign at the bottom.

Please note: Adobe® Reader® does not allow you to save your work. It is very important that you print out your form immediately after completing it.

Appendix B2

Project Information Form

PROJECT NAME (Limit name to 10 words or less)

EGID# 737

Fish Friendly Farming & Fish Friendly Ranching - Placer County

APPLICANT NAME (Legal name, address, and zip code)

California Land Stewardship Institute, 550 Gateway Dr. #108, Napa, CA 94558

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Refer to Sec. IV, 5a in the GAP.

Has the project description been updated from the project description submitted with the Pre-Application form? (Choose One) ☐ SAME ☒ UPDATED

CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL GENERAL PLAN

Is this project consistent with the appropriate jurisdiction's (city/county) general plan?

☒ Yes ☐ No (If not, explain why not.)

WILLIAMSON ACT STATUS (for conservation easement acquisition projects only)

Is the project enrolled in a Williamson Act contract with the local county? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what is the expiration date of the contract? _____

FUNDING AND BUDGET INFORMATION

SNC Grant Request \$ 75,000

☐ Check if SNC is the sole funder of this project

PERSON WITH FISCAL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT CONTRACT/INVOICING

Name and title – type or print

Phone

Email Address

☐ Mr.

707-253-1226 X1

laurelm@fishfriendlyfarming.org

☒ Ms. Laurel Marcus Executive Director

PERSON WITH DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT (Only include this information if different from pre-application submittal)

Name and title – type or print

Phone

Email Address

☒ Mr. Derek Hitchcock

707-253-1226

derekh@fishfriendlyfarming.org

☐ Ms.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR PLANNING DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION (*At least one entry with Email address is REQUIRED*)

Name: Paul Thompson, Deputy Planning Director

Phone Number: 530-745-3000

Email Address: planning@placer.ca.gov

Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

NEAREST PUBLIC WATER AGENCY (OR AGENCIES) CONTACT INFORMATION (*At least one entry with Email address is REQUIRED*)

Name: Mike Lee, Board Chair

Phone Number: 530-823-4860

Email Address: clerk@pcwa.net

Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Please identify the appropriate project category below and provide the associated details (*Choose One – should be the same as the category identified in the pre-application*)

☐ Category One Site Improvement

☒ Category Two Pre-Project Activities

☐ Category One Conservation Easement Acquisition

☐ **Site Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition**

Project Area: _____

Total Acres: _____

SNC Portion (if different): _____

Total Miles (i.e. river or stream bank): _____

SNC Portion (if different): _____

For Conservation Easement Acquisitions Only

☐ Appraisal Included

☐ Will submit appraisal by _____

Select one primary Site Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition deliverable

☐ Stream Restoration/Protection

☐ Management Practices Changes

☐ Natural Resource Protection

☐ Infrastructure Development/Improvement

☐ Conservation Easement

Does the applicant intend to transfer the easement to a third party? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, is the third party organization known? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please attach a letter from this organization documenting their willingness to assume the long term management of the project.

☒ **Pre-Project Activities**

Select one primary Pre-Project deliverable

☐ Permit

☐ Condition Assessment

☐ CEQA/NEPA

☐ Biological Survey

☐ Appraisal

☒ Environmental Site Assessment

☐ Plan

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-4

10/16/12

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
California Land Stewardship Institute

A resolution authorizing the submittal of an application for the Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching - Placer County Project

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided Funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of a portion of these funds through a local assistance grants program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicant's governing board before submission of said application(s) to the SNC; and

WHEREAS, the California Land Stewardship Institute, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the SNC to carry out the project; and

WHEREAS, the California Land Stewardship Institute has identified the Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching - Placer County Project as valuable toward meeting its mission and goals.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the California Land Stewardship Institute that this Board:

- Approves the submittal of an application for the Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching - Placer County Project; and
- Certifies that California Land Stewardship Institute understands the assurances and certification requirements in the application; and
- Certifies that California Land Stewardship Institute or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resource(s) consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application; or will secure the resources to do so; and

- Certifies that California Land Stewardship Institute will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process; and
- Appoints Laurel Marcus Executive Director or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to: applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the California Land Stewardship Institute Board of Directors hereby adopts Resolution 2012-4 on 10/16/12

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution 2012-3 was duly and regularly adopted by the Board of Directors of the California Land Stewardship Institute at the meeting thereof held on the 16 day of Oct., 2012, motion by Keith Horn and seconded by Zach Berkowitz motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 6
Noes:
Abstained:
Absent: 2



name Keith Horn
title: President

FISH FRIENDLY FARMING/FISH FRIENDLY RANCHING - PLACER COUNTY #737

Detailed Project Description

Agricultural and rangelands in the Sierra Nevada provide benefits to the local economy and the local environment. This proposal will improve the management of these lands in Placer County through the use of the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) and Fish Friendly Ranching (FFR) Environmental Certification Programs. The FFF/ FFR program addresses a range of environmental improvements on private land and integrates these improvements in the farming and ranching operation for long term public and environmental benefits. The FFF/ FFR program also identifies management measures and designs projects for water quality, water conservation and fish and wildlife habitat improvements. The Ca. Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) operates the FFF/ FFR program and under this proposal CLSI will partner with the Placer County Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to bring the FFF/ FFR program to Placer County.

Environmental Setting

Placer County in the central Sierra (Figure 1) has most of its irrigated agriculture below the SNC 1250 ft. boundary. Only 407 acres occur above this boundary.. However Rangeland used for dryland grazing covers over 50,000 acres above the SNC boundary. Figure 2 depicts the irrigated farmland and dryland grazing areas above 1250 ft in Placer County.

These lands serve as a working landscape where economic uses such as livestock operations and farming exist within a landscape of streams, rivers and their watershed lands. These lands support a diverse assemblage of native plant and wildlife species interspersed within and around the farming and grazing lands. Improvements to the management of the farm and grazing lands increases the water quality and water flow in streams, the sustainability of soils and agricultural productivity, the quality and continuity of habitats and the value of farm products. The FFF/ FFR program while focusing on private land produces benefits to many public resources while improving the economic viability of each farm or ranch.

Most of this area drains to the American River. The American River flows into Folsom Reservoir operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. According to the Basin Plan of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) the American River provides municipal water supply, power generation, agricultural irrigation supply, contact recreation, cold freshwater habitat, wildlife habitat and cold spawning habitat as beneficial uses.

Water quality impacts from agricultural and ranch lands in the Central Sierra are from nonpoint sources, or widely distributed locations that each generate small amounts of sediment, nutrient and pesticide/herbicide pollutants. Agricultural operations in this area use low volumes of irrigation water and do not generate return flows, a major source of pollutants in the Central Valley. Instead pollutants are generated through storm water

runoff, direct drift or spillage of pesticides. Ranches have similar mechanisms of pollutant delivery - storm water runoff transports sediment and pathogen bacteria into waterways. Numerous water quality studies recognize that nonpoint source pollution has to be addressed through implementation of best management practices (BMPs) such as filter strips, cover crops and critical area planting, riparian revegetation, drainage improvements and road repair to minimize the potential for soil erosion and pesticide runoff. Placer County is part of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program of the CVRWQCB. Water quality monitoring is done at stations downstream of Placer County.

The FFF Program provides support to farmers and ranchers who are seeking to learn the best management practices for sustainable long-term productive use of the land while also improving water quality and wildlife habitat, and as such is consistent with the Placer County General Plan, which states as Goal 1.H: "To...promote development of agricultural uses to support the continued viability of Placer County's agricultural economy," Goal 6.A: "To protect and enhance the natural qualities of Placer County's streams, creeks and groundwater," Goal 6.B: "To protect wetland communities and related riparian areas throughout Placer County as valuable resources," Goal 6.C: "To protect, restore, and enhance habitats that support fish and wildlife species so as to maintain populations at viable levels," Goal 7.A: "To provide for the long-term conservation and use of agriculturally-designated lands," Goal 7.C: "To protect and enhance the economic viability Placer County's agricultural operations," and Goal 7.D: "To maximize the productivity of Placer County's agriculture uses by ensuring adequate supplies of water" which includes encouraging water conservation by farmers.

Goals

The goals of the FFF/ FFR Programs are to:

- **Improve and sustain high levels of water quality in rivers, lakes and streams through pollution prevention measures on farms and ranches.**

As part of this proposal pollution prevention analyses will be carried out on a minimum of 3000 acres of farm and ranch lands up to a maximum of 5000 acres. Deliverables: BMP list with timeline and project designs (as applicable) for each site up to the 5000 acres maximum. BMPs cover pollution prevention for agricultural chemicals, sediment sources, water conservation, livestock management to reduce bacterial pollution as well as stream revegetation.

- **Improve, sustain and increase the ecological integrity of riparian corridors and wetlands through projects on farm and ranches.**

As part of this proposal we estimate that the site assessments will include approximately 15 linear ft of creek/river corridor per acre of farm and ranch land.

Deliverables: For all of these streams the assessments will provide either BMPs for improvements or a project design if needed.

- **Sustain and preserve working landscapes and economic uses of land**

By improving the environmental condition of farms and ranches especially for water quality the FFF/FFR program makes these areas sustainable with less regulation.

Deliverables: List of certified sites and record of BMP implementation.

- **Increase opportunities for agricultural tourism through the promotion of FFF/FFR certified sites and labeled products**

CLSI provides the tools for marketing and promotion of each site with our logo and signs. Deliverables: Project information materials for Ag tourism groups for marketing and publicity of local areas.

- **Develop a regional program for long term improvements in water quality and habitats and sustainable agriculture and ranching.**

This proposal will extend the FFF/ FFR program to Placer County. CLSI is also working with the El Dorado RCD and Amador County RCD to extend the program on a regional basis. Deliverables: Increased acres in the FFF/ FFR program and greater improvements to water quality, habitat and sustainability.

Project Description

In 2008 the SNC approved a grant to the Georgetown Divide/El Dorado RCD to partner with CLSI to develop and implement a version of the FFF program in El Dorado County. The FFF program had successfully implemented water quality improvements on over 120,000 acres statewide. The Sierra Foothills FFF program includes Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) for winegrapes, plums, peaches, nectarines, cherries, walnuts, olives, pears, apples and Christmas trees. Each of these crops has specific diseases and pests and chemical usage as well as tillage, weed control, fertilizer use, irrigation and other practices. The FFF program BMPs use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as well as a number of other measures to reduce pollutants in runoff and create additional habitat on farms. The FFR program was developed in 2011 and focuses on reducing erosion and bacterial pollution into waterways as well as creek restoration and sustainable livestock operations. Both programs provide the landowner with use of the FFF logo in marketing and labeling their products. Currently there are a number of El Dorado growers who are using the logo. Growers in El Dorado County certified 2750 acres and participation in the FFF program has been steadily growing. Growers in nearby counties such as Amador and Placer want to participate in the FFF program.

This Category 2 planning project will provide for a minimum of 3000 acres up to a maximum of 5000 acres of farm and ranch lands to be assessed using the Sierra Foothills FFF/ FFR program and needed BMPs and projects to be prescribed.

The FFF/FFR program requires a number of steps:

- Landowner enrolls property, receives FFF/FFR workbooks and site maps and attends two workshops on management measures. Enrollment will occur prior to contract with SNC.
- CLSI completes site assessment with owner/manager
- CLSI working with owner identifies problems and needed BMPs and any needed projects. Projects are defined as more complex efforts than BMPs and may require permits to implement. Owner and CLSI completes farm plan template including BMP prescriptions.
- CLSI and RCD discuss BMPs with owner
- CLSI completes project designs.

- Properties are certified by Agricultural Commissioner and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Landowner is able to use FFF/ FFR logo in marketing or labeling products and site signage.
- Landowner implements BMPs separately from this grant but with assistance from CLSI and RCD and completes annual photo monitoring
- Also separate from this grant CLSI and RCD work with landowner to find funding for project implementation.

Each site assessment will be comprehensive covering:

- Soil erosion – a complete sediment source inventory and mapping will be done including tilled areas, roads, corrals, existing erosion sites and other areas to identify active erosion. Movement of soil particles into waterways is a major pathway for pesticides to enter streams and rivers.
- Water use – type of irrigation and frost control system will be assessed along with efficiency evaluation
- Chemical use – for each crop the chemical/cultural control measure for each pest and disease is assessed. The toxicity of currently used chemicals is compared to alternative measures. Chemical storage, mix and load sites and application measures are assessed for precautions against spills, drift and groundwater contamination. Use of IPM measures such as insectary rows, beneficial insect habitat, tolerance of pest damage to support beneficial insects and other measures are evaluated.
- Stream network – the network of perennial, intermittent and ephemeral creeks is mapped on the site and assessed for geomorphic condition, vegetative type and cover, presence of invasive nonnative plants, potential for improvements to fish and wildlife habitat, potential to increase connectivity within the watershed, create wildlife corridors and other features.
- Agricultural area – farmed lands are mapped and assessed for measures to protect against soil erosion such as cover crops, the condition of the agricultural drainage system, fertilizer use and overall soil health.
- Grazing areas – grazed areas are mapped along with fence lines, watering areas, supplement locations, shade structure locations, corrals and service areas, creek crossings and sensitive habitat or rare plant areas. The operation is evaluated for the season of use of various grazing areas, type of operation, herd size, rangeland capacity, residual dry matter and other features. All of these features determine if sediment and pathogen bacteria delivery to creeks is limited to the greatest degree possible by management measures in use.
- Non-agricultural areas – uplands are evaluated for vegetation type, use and potential for enhancement of native plants or wildlife habitat.

The assessment is prepared with the grower/rancher in order to include the detailed and historic knowledge of the operator and create a collaborative working relationship. For each assessment a series of BMPs is prescribed to revise management practices and make specific improvements to water quality, in-stream flows, fish and wildlife

habitat and improve the sustainability of the operation. The BMPs to be prescribed include 38 for irrigated agricultural lands and 36 for ranches such as:

- Installation of winter cover crops and critical area plantings on all farmed land to protect soil against sheet or rain strike erosion;
- Elimination of wet weather tillage;
- Installation of erosion control on field roads, ranch roads and year round roads;
- Installation of vegetated filter strips adjacent to all waterways;
- Stabilization and revegetation of rills and gullies over the property;
- Installation of rock dissipaters at pipe outlets to eliminate gully formation;
- Stabilization of creek crossings and modification if a fish migration barrier exists;
- Eradication of invasive non-native plants;
- Revegetation of ephemeral, seasonal and year round waterways and wetlands with local genetically appropriate native plants;
- Reduction in pesticide and fertilizer use through IPM practices and modification of storage, mixing and application practices to protect surface and groundwater;
- Elimination of use of chemicals known to leach into groundwater;
- Grazing management to provide adequate residual dry matter to protect soils and reduce negative effects on riparian corridors and wetlands;
- Water conservation practices.

Outcomes of each site assessment will be described by the potential results of implementing the assessment including: tons of sediment retained from waterways, acres with soil and water conservation completed, miles of roads and waterways treated for erosion, acres of nonnative plant removal and native plant revegetation, acres of wetlands enhanced, acres of rangeland treated with improved grazing management.

Ongoing water quality monitoring through the water quality coalition will document improvements over time. To obtain and continue to use the FFF label and logo landowners must continue to implement all BMPs creating long term public benefits. Additionally the use of the FFF certification as compliance under CVRWQCB's irrigated lands program is being sought as is done in Regions 1 and 2.

In order to meet SNC's requirements we have already completed outreach to growers and ranchers and have identified those who are interested in enrolling in the program. We will use the alternative land tenure process and have attached our landowner agreement/enrollment form and landowner list.

Project Summary

Nonpoint source pollutants consisting of sediment, pesticides, fertilizers and bacterial pathogens are derived from farms and ranches distributed over Placer County. These private lands contain significant fish and wildlife habitats and stream areas. The Fish Friendly Farming/Fish Friendly Ranching (FFF/FFR) programs operated by the nonprofit Ca. Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) work directly with landowners to complete a comprehensive assessment of all soil erosion sources, chemical use, stream network, water use, grazing operations, fish and wildlife habitats and agricultural land management practices. Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) are prescribed and if

needed projects are designed using the FFF/FFR templates and working with the owner. This proposal would complete these assessments on a minimum of 3000 acres up to a maximum of 5000 acres including 45,000 to 75,000 linear feet of creek assessments. Revegetation designs will be completed for up to 20,000 linear feet of creek corridor. Both the Placer County RCD and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will be partners with CLSI for this grant. The FFF/ FFR program provides for certification of each site by the County Agricultural Commissioner and NRCS. Once certified the owner can use the FFF/ FFR logo to market products and publicize their sustainable practices. CLSI has identified agricultural and ranching properties likely to enroll in the FFF/ FFR program and will complete land owner agreements /enrollment forms before the SNC contract is issued. Outcomes of each site assessment will be described by the potential results of implementing the assessment including: tons of sediment retained from waterways, acres with soil and water conservation completed, miles of roads and waterways treated for erosion, acres of nonnative plant removal and native plant revegetation, acres of wetlands enhanced, acres of rangeland treated with improved grazing management.

Work plan and Schedule

We are assuming a start date of 5/2013 and an end date of 3/1/2016

Task 1: Project Management – throughout project

Oversight of subcontracts, preparation of invoices and 6-month progress reports, coordination with SNC staff, performance measure reporting.

- Deliverables: Progress reports with performance measure reporting, invoices, subcontracts, final report with performance measure reporting

Task 2: Site Enrollment 5/2013; 10/2013-1/2014; 10/2014-1/2015

We have listed a number of agricultural and ranching sites who are interested in participating. We will complete enrollment/landowner agreement forms with each landowner prior to the SNC contract and prepare maps of topography, soils and an aerial photography at 1"=500'.

- Deliverables: List of enrolled sites, landowner agreements

Task 3: BMP Training for Landowners 6/2013; 1/2014; 1/2015

It is essential that landowners are actively engaged in improving land management practices. Each enrolled site will send 1-2 representatives to a series of two workshops. FFF/FFR workshops will be distributed. University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) staff will work with CLSI to provide presentations on soil erosion control techniques, stream care and revegetation, wildlife habitat enhancement, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), pesticide storage and protection of surface and groundwater and water conservation.

- Deliverables: Workshop schedule and presentations

Task 4: Site Assessments 5/2013-8/2013; 3/2014-8/2014; 3/2015-8/2015

CLSI will meet with landowners and work with them to perform a comprehensive assessment of their lands. This will include mapping features and working with the owner to complete the FFF farm plan template and BMP implementation timeline. CLSI will produce a summary of needed BMPs and projects for each site.

- Deliverables: Site description and BMP timeline for each site for a total of 3-5,000 acres

Task 5: Improving Data Collection and Revising Pesticide Use 6/2013-3/2016

One method for revising the use of pesticides is to use precise environmental data. For winegrapes fungicides are the primary chemical used. In most regions weather stations are used in each micro-climate to measure temperatures and humidity and be used with a computerized mildew model. This type of analysis provides for the precise use of chemicals reducing overall use and improving the quality of grapes sustaining the farm operation. As part of the FFF program we would like to set up a weather station as a demonstration of a management method that growers need to adopt.

- Deliverables: New methodology for revising use of fungicides in winegrapes

Task 6: Certification 8/2013-9/2013; 8/2014-9/2014; 8/2015-2/2016

CLSI will coordinate with the Placer County Agricultural Commissioner, Natural Resource Conservation Service and UCCE to complete certifications. The certifiers review the farm plan, review the site and add BMPs if needed. They approve the site, approve with modifications or reject with an explanation. Once the certification is completed CLSI issues a certificate to the owner.

- Deliverables: Copies of certificates

Task 7: Project Designs 8/2013-3/2016

For sites where erosion control, revegetation or wildlife enhancement projects are identified, CLSI will complete designs to allow for permitting and implementation.

- Deliverables: Project designs for six major projects or 10 small projects selected by severity of problem on natural resources or operation.

Task 8 Implementation 6/2013-3/2016 Match funds only

Using our own funds, CLSI will work with growers to assure they implement the BMP portion of their farm plans and complete annual photo monitoring. In addition we will work with the RCD and NRCS to find funds for implementation of project designs and complete permit requirements.

Restrictions, Technical Documents and Agreements – Category 1 Projects Only

This section does not apply to this Category 2 project.

Organizational Capacity

CLSI currently operates the FFF program in five counties including Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, Solano and El Dorado on over 120,000 acres. Our staff all work on the FFF program as well as numerous restoration projects and include erosion control specialists, botanists with revegetation and habitat restoration experience, GIS specialists and rangeland conservation specialists. All of our staff work with private landowners and understand how to collaborate with farmers and ranchers.

Our project manager for this grant, Derek Hitchcock, grew up in Nevada City and is very familiar with ranching and farming in the foothill region. Derek has completed numerous FFF plans and can efficiently complete site assessments and discuss the need for various BMPs and projects with landowners.

Laurel Marcus, our Executive Director will oversee the work on the grant and is the author of the FFF/ FFR programs. Ms Marcus will teach the workshops, review the site assessments and BMPs prescribed. She will also prepare the project designs. Ms Marcus has over 30 years of experience in this field.

CLSI has developed field methods to efficiently assess land conditions, map features accurately and work with growers. We have the capacity to complete the proposed project.

Cooperation and Community Support

CLSI developed this proposal in conjunction with the Placer County RCD. We have also coordinated with a number of growers and ranchers. It was difficult to request support letters from specific growers as it is currently harvest and growers are very busy. However we have compiled a list and will complete landowner agreements/enrollment forms with these growers and ranchers. Letters from the Placer RCD and the NRCS are attached.

Long Term Management and Sustainability

In other regions where the FFF program operates growers implement the BMPs prescribed in the assessment. CLSI works with the grower to provide needed technical assistance. Each BMP has a timeline for implementation depending on the severity of the problem. In order to be re-certified 5-7 years after the initial certification the growers need to demonstrate progress on implementation. Recertification is required to continue use of the FFF logo. Also the program is structured to revise land management practices and so has a long term effect.

For the project designs, CLSI will work with the RCD and NRCS to find farm bill programs or other funding for implementation. The majority of growers and ranchers in the Placer area are small operations and qualify for farm bill programs like EQIP. The completion of a comprehensive assessment of site conditions allows for a higher score in the local prioritization of EQIP projects. CLSI will also evaluate other federal, state and private sources of funding for projects. Over the 15 year history of the FFF program CLSI has always identified funding for projects.

Performance Measures

Number of People Reached:

The expansion of the program into Placer County will involve diverse participants, including Sierra Nevada residents, landowner groups and individuals, conservation groups and individuals, government officials, and resource professionals. CLSI will track the participation of these groups and the number of people reached through the use of sign-in sheets at FFF BMP workshops, FFF enrollment forms, and attendees at the FFF program completion award ceremony at the end of the grant period. In addition, CLSI will track unique visitors to the FFF Sierra Nevada web page, once it is online. This information will be compiled into a spreadsheet and submitted to the Grant Manager.

Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada:

This Category 2 grant will provide for site assessment with BMP prescriptions for 3-5000 acres of farm and ranch land. We expect the majority of the BMPs to be implemented by landowners. The value of this implementation will be tracked along with the value of landowner's time to complete the assessments. As additional grants are received for project implementation we will also track these funds.

Number and Type of Jobs Created:

The establishment of the FFF Program in Placer County is expected to directly create jobs in the Farming, Construction, and Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services occupational groups, through the implementation of BMPs and restoration projects. In addition, the opportunity for use of FFF certification to increase agricultural tourism may indirectly create jobs in the Accommodation and Food Service and Other Services occupational groups. CLSI will use SNC's recommended approach to estimating the number of jobs created.

Number and Value of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities

The FFF Program is expected to aid in the preservation of agriculture and working landscapes in Placer County and provide new opportunities for agricultural tourism. Properties that are certified under the FFF Program with a certification sign on the property. These signs have proven very popular with participants in El Dorado County and other areas, and can be a highly visible method for increasing public relations and media attention. CLSI will use the number of properties certified as the means of estimating this Performance Measure.

Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments

For each property enrolled in the FFF Program, CLSI staff work extensively with the landowner/land manager to create an individualized, site-specific assessment and BMP prescription, which documents existing conditions and makes recommendations for implementing BMPs and projects where necessary. CLSI will use the number of site assessments created by this grant for this Performance Measure.

Percent of Pre-Project Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

Properties certified under the FFF Program are expected to implement their required BMPs according to the timeline recommended for each BMPs or show significant progress toward implementation, in order to be recertified. For this Performance Measure, CLSI will check certified properties for progress on required actions one and three years after the end of the SNC grant, and report the results.

Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior

Participants in the FFF Program are required to attend a series of workshops covering all of the elements of the FFF/FFR program including road erosion, creek erosion and vegetation management, cover crops, and other BMPs to improve water quality and wildlife habitat. To track changes in knowledge or behavior, CLSI will administer a survey to attendees at the beginning of the first workshop to assess pre-existing knowledge and behavior. CLSI will then administer a post-project survey to participants at the certification visit to measure changes in knowledge and behavior, and will report on the results.

Budget Narrative

The budget for this proposal primarily has personnel costs for CLSI staff who will do the majority of the work for the project. The total number of hours budgeted 5,108 for assessments, BMP prescriptions and other actions for 3,000-5,000 acres. This time allocation also would provide for 10 project designs. CLSI has developed a highly efficient methodology for completing site map creation, site assessment and mapping and BMP prescription. CLSI will also provide \$5,000 in in-kind services.

One other organization will provide services: Placer County RCD. Landowner in-kind services are also estimated at 40 hours for the entire FFF/FFR program process. We also estimate a minimum of 45 landowners will participate and a low per hour cost of \$30.00.

Appendix B4

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

PROPOSITION 84 - DETAILED BUDGET FORM

Project Name: FISH FRIENDLY FARMING/FISH FRIENDLY RANCHING - PLACER COUNTY #737

Applicant: Ca. Land Stewardship Institute

SECTION ONE				Project Cost Breakdown				
DIRECT COSTS	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Year One (2013)	Year Two (2014)	Year Three (2015)	Year Four (2016)	Total
CLSI personnel:								
Laurel Marcus	469	50	\$23,450.00	\$7,333.00	\$7,333.00	\$7,334.00	\$1,450.00	\$23,450.00
Derek Hitchcock	400	44	\$17,596.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,596.00	\$17,596.00
Lisa Lackey	180	40	\$7,200.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$7,200.00
Lisa Godfrey	199	44	\$8,754.00	\$2,584.00	\$2,585.00	\$2,585.00	\$1,000.00	\$8,754.00
Project Consultants:								
Placer RCD			\$4,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,000.00
Travel	4000	\$0.50	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$2,000.00
DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	5,248		\$63,000.00	\$18,417.00	\$18,418.00	\$18,419.00	\$7,746.00	\$63,000.00

SECTION TWO				Project Cost Breakdown				
INDIRECT COSTS	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Total
Project materials & supplies purchased, postage, brochures, performance measures reporting			\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$3,000.00
Printing			\$1,500.00	\$600.00	\$500.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$1,500.00
								\$0.00
INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	0	\$0.00	\$4,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$4,500.00
PROJECT TOTAL:	5,248	\$0.00	\$67,500.00	\$19,417.00	\$19,418.00	\$18,919.00	\$8,246.00	\$67,500.00

SECTION THREE				Project Cost Breakdown				
Administrative Costs (Costs may not to exceed 15% of total Project Cost) :	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Total
Organization operating/overhead costs, performance measures reporting, invoicing, progress report preparation			7,500.00	\$1,875.00	\$1,875.00	\$1,875.00	\$1,875.00	\$7,500.00
ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:	0	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$1,875.00	\$1,875.00	\$1,875.00	\$1,875.00	\$7,500.00
SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:	5,248	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	\$21,292.00	\$21,293.00	\$20,794.00	\$10,121.00	\$75,000.00

SECTION FOUR				Years Fund Received				
OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS				Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Total
CLSI (in-kind contribution)			\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00				\$5,000.00
Landowners estimated at 40 hrs X minimum of 45 owners @ \$30/hr			\$54,000.00	\$13,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$54,000.00
Total Other Contributions:	0	\$0.00	\$59,000.00	\$18,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$59,000.00

Appendix B3

CEQA/NEPA Compliance Form

(California Environmental Quality Act & National Environmental Policy Act)

Instructions: All applicants, including federal agencies, must complete the CEQA compliance section. Check the box that describes the CEQA status of the proposed project. You must also complete the documentation component and submit any surveys, and/or reports that support the checked CEQA status. NOTE: There is no page limit requirement on this form. You may use the space you need to fully describe the CEQA/NEPA status of this project.

If NEPA is applicable to your project, you must complete the NEPA section in addition to the CEQA section. Check the box that describes the NEPA status of the proposed project. Complete the documentation component and submit any surveys, and/or reports that support the NEPA status.

For both CEQA and NEPA, submittal of permits is only necessary if they contain conditions providing information regarding potential environmental impacts.

CEQA STATUS

(All applicants must complete this section)

Check the box that corresponds with the CEQA compliance for your project. The proposed action is either “Not a Project” under CEQA; is Categorically Exempt from CEQA; or requires a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or an Environmental Impact Report per CEQA.

☐ **“Not a Project” per CEQA**

1. Describe how your project is “Not a Project” per CEQA:

2. If appropriate, provide documentation to support the “Not a Project” per CEQA status.

☒ **Categorical Exemption or Statutory Exemption**

If a project is categorically exempt from CEQA, all applicants, including public agencies that provide a filed Notice of Exemption, are required to provide a clear and comprehensive description of the physical attributes of the project site, including potential and known special-status species and habitat, in order for the SNC to make a determination that the project is exempt. A particular project that ordinarily would fall under a specific category of exemption may require further CEQA review due to individual circumstances, i.e., it is within a sensitive location, has a cumulative impact, has a significant effect on the environment, is within a scenic highway, impacts an historical resource, or is on a hazardous waste site. Potential cultural/archaeological resources must be noted, but do not need to be specifically listed or mapped at the time of application submittal. Backup data informing the exemption decision, such as biological surveys, Cultural Information Center requests, research papers, etc. should accompany the full application. Applicants anticipating the SNC to file an exemption are

encouraged to conduct the appropriate surveys and submit an information request to an office of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for claiming a Categorical or Statutory Exemption per CEQA:

The project complies with **Sec. 15306 - Information Collection**. Project consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Sec 15304. Minor Alterations to Land Landowner implementation of BMPs under this project will involve minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

15333. Small Habitat Restoration Projects. Landowner implementation of BMPs under this project will not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife with no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat, no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed, and no impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

2. If your organization is a state or local governmental agency, submit a signed, approved Notice of Exemption (NOE) documenting the use of the Categorical Exemption or Statutory Exemption, along with any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this CEQA status. The Notice of Exemption must bear a date stamp to show that it has been filed with the State Clearinghouse and/or County Clerk, as required by CEQA.

N/A

3. If your organization is a nonprofit or federal agency, there is no other California public agency having discretionary authority over your project, and you would like the SNC to prepare a NOE for your project, let us know that and provide any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support the CEQA status.

We would like the SNC to prepare an NOE for this project

-
- ☐ **Negative Declaration OR**
☐ **Mitigated Negative Declaration**

If a project requires a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration, then applicants must work with a qualified public agency, i.e., one that has discretionary authority over project approval or permitting, to complete the CEQA process.

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for the use of a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration per CEQA:

2. Submit the approved Initial Study and Negative Declaration/Mitigated Negative Declaration along with any Mitigation Monitoring or Reporting Plans, permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this CEQA status. The IS/ND/MND must be accompanied by a signed, approved Notice of Determination, which must bear a date stamp to show that it has been filed with the State Clearinghouse and/or County Clerk, as required by CEQA.

☐ **Environmental Impact Report**

If a project requires an Environmental Impact Report, then applicants must work with a qualified public agency, i.e., one that has discretionary authority over project approval or permitting, to complete the CEQA process.

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for the use of an Environmental Impact Report per CEQA:

2. Submit the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report along with any Mitigation Monitoring or Reporting Plans, permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this CEQA status. The EIR documentation must be accompanied by a signed, approved Notice of Determination, which must bear a date stamp to show that it has been filed with the State Clearinghouse and/or County Clerk, as required by CEQA.

NEPA STATUS

(Applicable to federal applicants, some tribal organizations, and applicants receiving federal funding or conducting activities on federal lands)

Check the box that corresponds with the NEPA compliance for your project.

☐ **Categorical Exclusion**

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for claiming a Categorical Exclusion per NEPA:

2. Submit the signed, approved Decision Memo and Categorical Exclusion, as well as documentation to support the Categorical Exclusion, including any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this NEPA status:

☐ **Environmental Assessment & Finding of No Significant Impact**

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for the use of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact per NEPA:

2. Submit the signed, approved Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact along with any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this NEPA status.

☐ **Environmental Impact Statement**

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for the use of an Environmental Impact Statement per NEPA:

2. Submit the Draft and approved, Final Environmental Impact Statement, along with the Record of Decision and any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this NEPA status.

PINE HILL ORCHARD

Sept. 16, 2012
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Dr., Ste. 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: Support for Proposal 737 – Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching - Placer County

Dear Sirs:

We, The Hansen Family of Pine Hill Orchard, are writing to express our support for proposal 737 to bring the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) and Fish Friendly Ranching (FFR) programs to Placer County. The FFF program recently was developed and implemented in El Dorado County where it has been very popular with growers. It is a voluntary collaborative program between the grower/rancher and the FFF program with assistance from local agencies such as the University of Ca. Cooperative Extension and Resource Conservation Districts.

The FFF program provides for a comprehensive farm plan to be produced with the grower and then be certified by the County Agricultural Commissioner and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The farm plan identifies the needed management measures and projects to improve and maintain water quality through reduced soil erosion and chemical use and improvements to creek corridors, wetlands and other wildlife habitats. These plans assist the grower to understand what management measures and projects are needed on their site and how to gain needed financial resources for implementation. The new program for rangeland Fish Friendly Ranching uses this same collaborative approach to improving water quality and habitats on grazing lands. The FFF certification is also being considered as a compliance mechanism for water quality regulations.

We would like to have these same programs in our county. If this grant is approved we will participate in the program. We grow citrus, stone & pome fruit on our property located at 4480 Hansen Rd in Loomis CA.

Thank you for considering this funding request.

Sincerely





Placer County Resource Conservation District

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Dr., Ste. 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Proposal #735: Fish Friendly Farming & Fish Friendly Ranching Programs: Placer County

October 15, 2012

Dear Sierra Nevada Conservancy:

On behalf of the Placer County Resource Conservation District, I am writing to express my support for proposal 735 submitted by the California Land Stewardship Institute: Fish Friendly Farming & Fish Friendly Ranching Programs: Placer County. This project would provide for the establishment and implementation of the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) and Fish Friendly Ranching (FFR) programs on over 2,000 acres of farm and ranch land in the Sierra foothills of Placer County.

The FFF and FFR programs are voluntary, collaborative programs for landowners/operators to improve their management practices and implement environmental restoration to improve and maintain water quality through reduced soil erosion and chemical use, and make improvements to creek corridors, wetlands, and wildlife habitats. The FFF program has been very popular with the growers in Napa, Solano, Sonoma, and Mendocino Counties.

The Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) Program is sponsored by the nonprofit California Land Stewardship Institute and allows a farmer to learn about the beneficial management practices for obtaining improved environmental conditions on the farm while retaining economic efficiency. It is an innovative environmental program to modify existing management practices and produce long-term sustainable improvements. The FFF Program has gained the widespread support from farmers and landowners as well as regulatory agencies because it focuses on increasing the knowledge base and the ability of the local agricultural community to sustain watershed and water quality improvements.

The FFF program was adapted for El Dorado County in 2008 and many farmers there have completed the certification. We believe that the establishment of the FFF Program in Placer County will meet with similar success and strongly encourage approval of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Katie Maloney
District Manager

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
251 Auburn Ravine Road # 107
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 885 - 6505
Fax (530) 823 - 5504

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Dr., Ste. 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Proposal #735: Fish Friendly Farming & Fish Friendly Ranching Programs: Placer County

October 18, 2012

Dear Sierra Nevada Conservancy:

On behalf of the Natural Resources Conservation Service's, Placer County Field Office (NRCS), I am writing to express our support for Proposal 735 submitted by the California Land Stewardship Institute: Fish Friendly Farming & Fish Friendly Ranching Programs: Placer County. This project would provide for the establishment and implementation of the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) and Fish Friendly Ranching (FFR) programs on farm and ranch land in the Sierra foothills of Placer County.

The FFF and FFR programs are voluntary, collaborative efforts for landowners/operators to improve their management practices, and implement environmental restoration with the objective to improve and maintain water quality through reduced soil erosion and chemical use, and make improvements to creek corridors, wetlands, and wildlife habitats. These programs will be a positive approach to augmenting the work that NRCS is doing with local producers to improve conservation in Placer County.

The FFF & FFR programs are sponsored by the nonprofit California Land Stewardship Institute. They are an innovative environmental way to modify existing management practices and produce long-term sustainable improvements. These programs have gained the widespread support from farmers and landowners as well as regulatory agencies because they focus on increasing the knowledge base and the ability of the local agricultural community to sustain watershed and water quality improvements.

The FFF program was adapted for El Dorado County in 2008 and many landowners there have completed the certification. We believe that the establishment of these programs in Placer County will meet with similar success and strongly encourage approval of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Brenner", is written over a faint, larger blue ink signature.

Mike Brenner, P.E.
District Conservationist

Long-Term Management and Sustainability

Long-Term Management Plan

The FFF program is structured to revise land management practices through education and technical assistance, and so has a long term effect. Growers attend a series of educational workshops on topics including soil erosion, chemical use and water conservation, stream corridor function and management. CLSI staff then visits the site and assists the grower in completing a Farm Plan. Once the Farm Plan is complete, growers implement the BMPs prescribed in the assessment. CLSI staff work with the grower to provide needed technical assistance for implementing the BMPs. Each BMP has a timeline for implementation depending on the severity of the problem. In order to be re-certified 5-7 years after the initial certification, the grower needs to demonstrate progress on implementation of the BMPs. Recertification is required for the grower to continue using the FFF logo.

In some cases, Farm Plans identify areas needing restoration or enhancement projects. Types of projects include stream bank stabilization, riparian planting, invasive plant removal, road upgrading and drainage system upgrading. For such projects, the RCD will work with CLSI and NRCS to find farm bill programs or other funding for design and implementation. The majority of growers and ranchers in the El Dorado area are small operations and qualify for farm bill programs like EQIP. The completion of a comprehensive assessment of site conditions, such as participating in the FFF program, allows for a higher score in the local prioritization of EQIP projects. The RCD and CLSI will also evaluate other federal, state and private sources of funding for projects such as grants from the water board or CA Department of Fish and Game. Over the 15 year history of the FFF program CLSI has had great success in identifying and securing funding for projects.

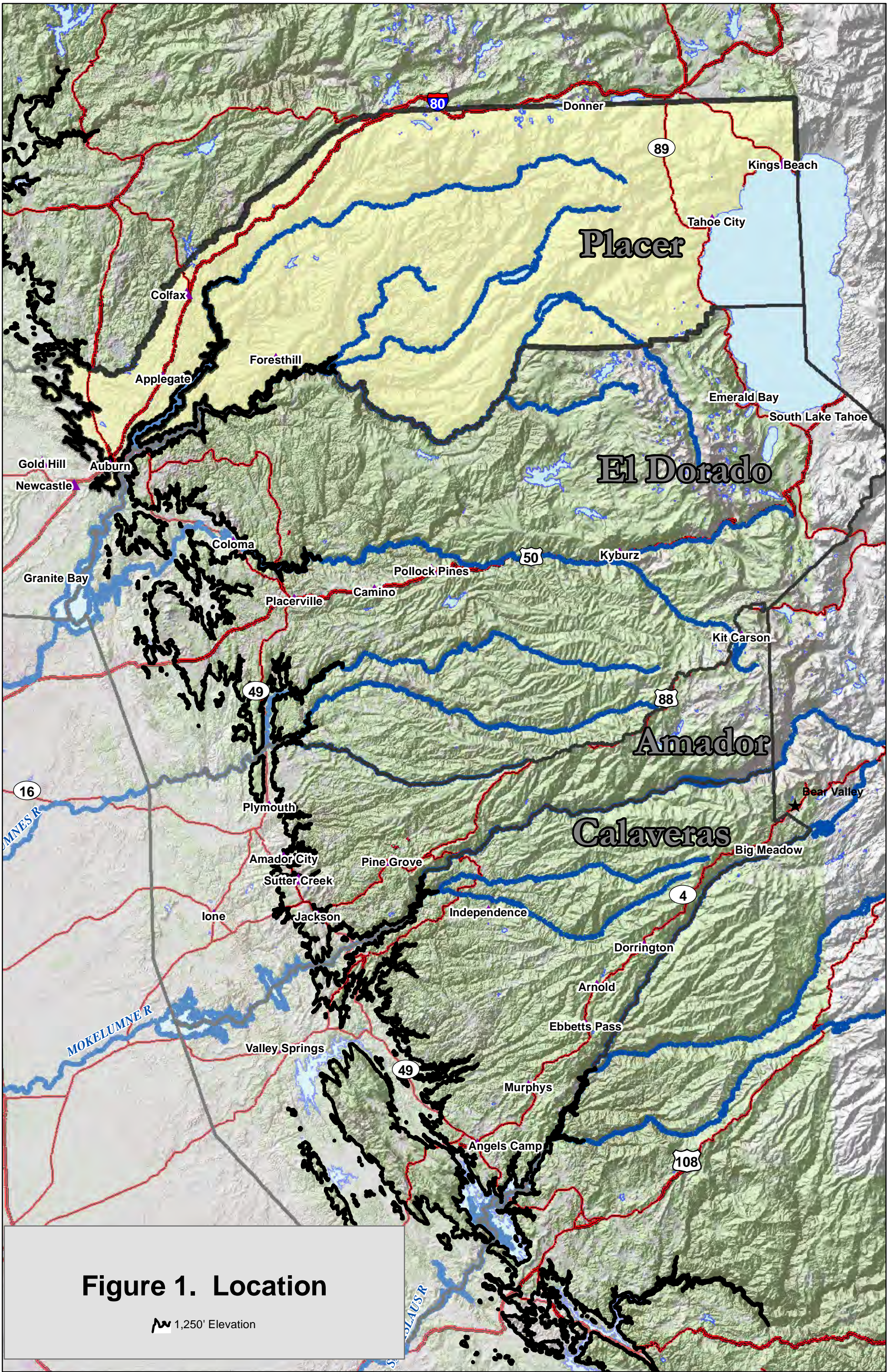
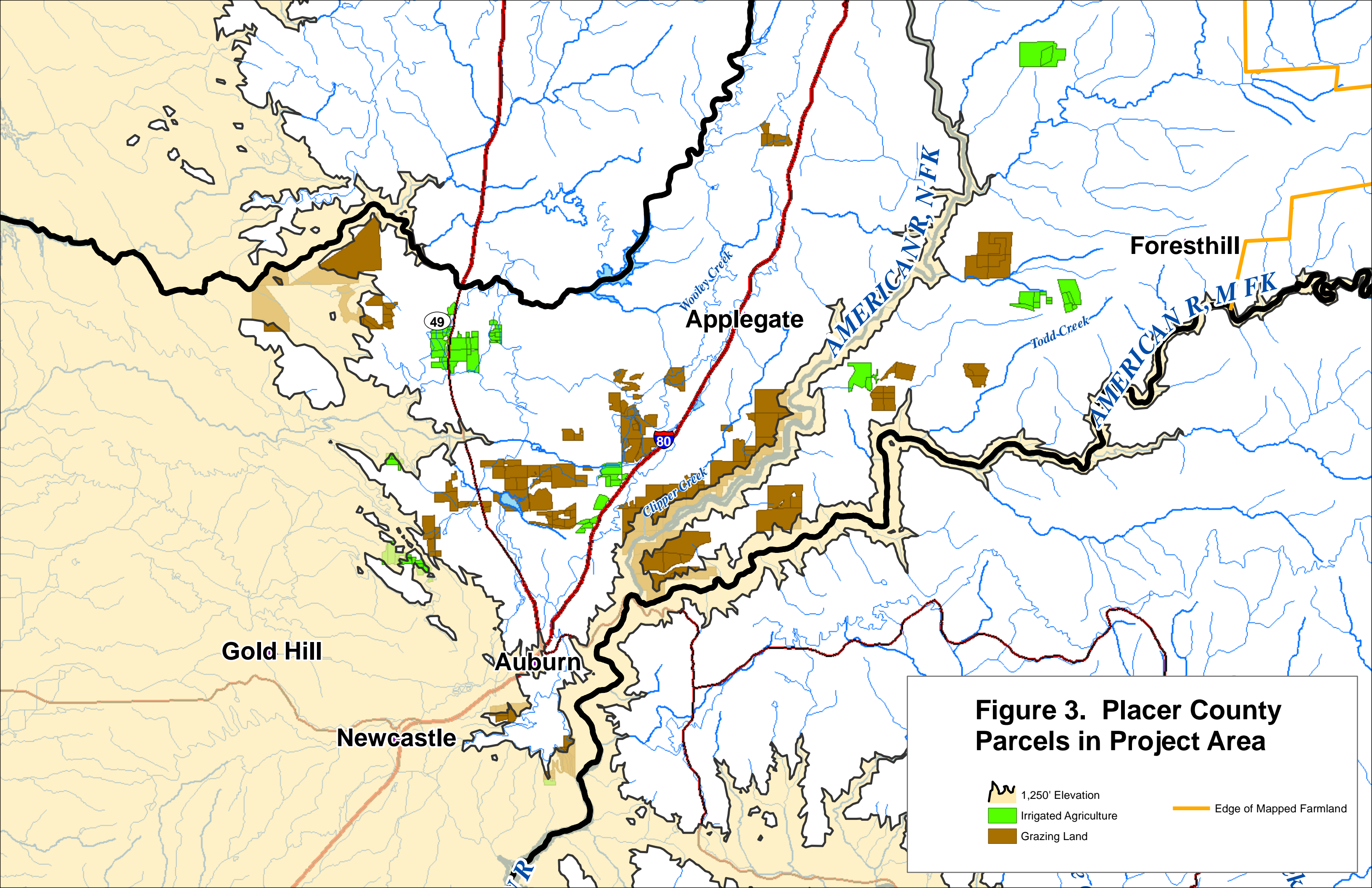


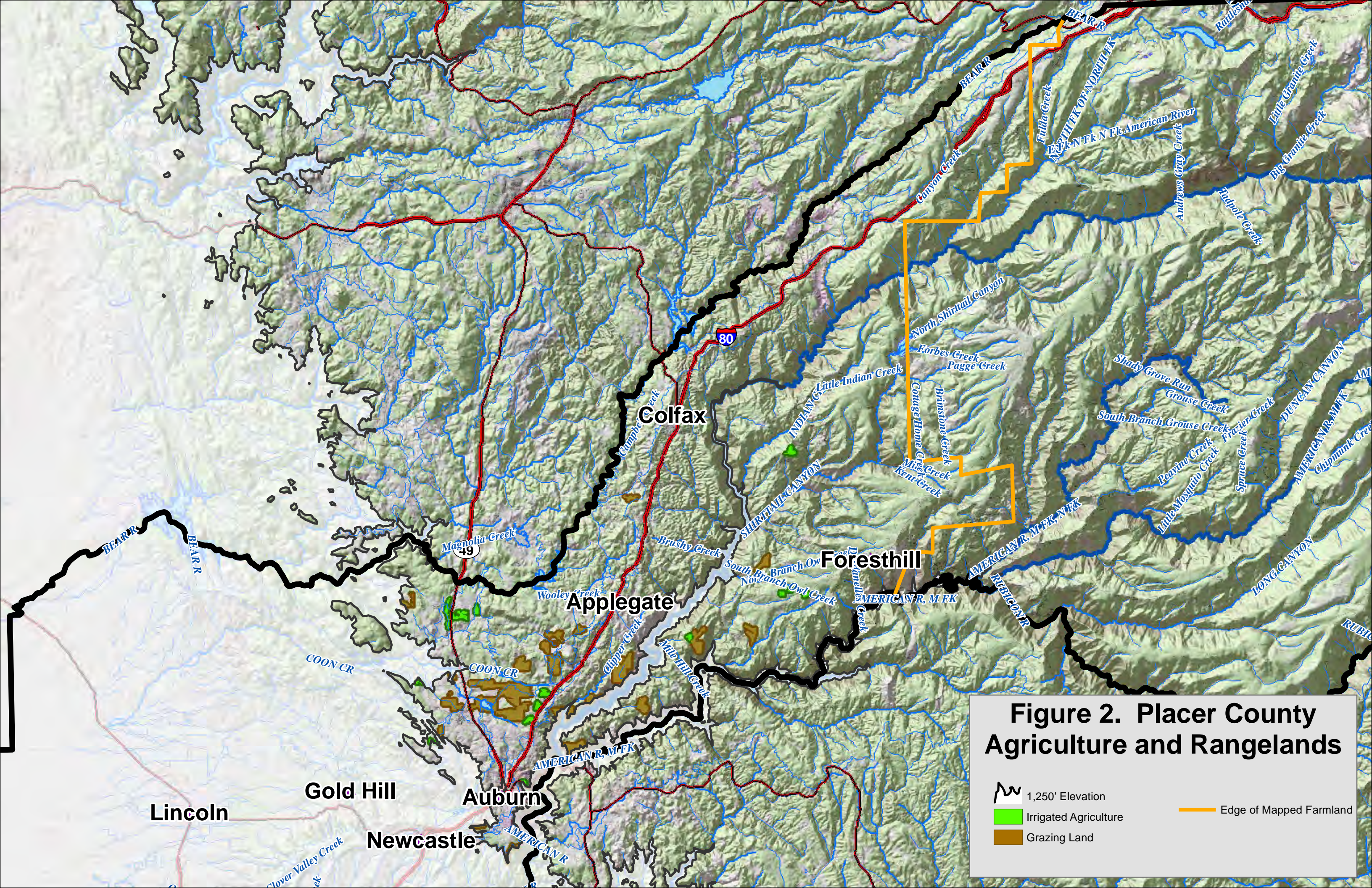
Figure 1. Location

1,250' Elevation




**Figure 3. Placer County
Parcels in Project Area**

- 1,250' Elevation
- Irrigated Agriculture
- Grazing Land
- Edge of Mapped Farmland



**Figure 2. Placer County
Agriculture and Rangelands**

 1,250' Elevation
 Irrigated Agriculture
 Grazing Land
 Edge of Mapped Farmland

Photographs of Ranch lands in Placer County that will be part of the FFR project

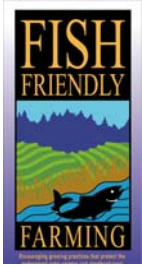




Land Tenure

Ranches in Placer County interested in FFR Program

BAR NDC CATTLE COMPANY
FISH CLUB LAMBS
J.V. RANCH
PINE VALLEY RANCH
SINCLAIR FAMILY FARM
SPANISH CORRAL RANCH
SPANISH CORRAL RANCH
DUTSCHKE RANCH
PODESTA RANCH
MCLAUGHLIN RANCH
WANDERING STAR ALPACAS



Fish Friendly Farming/Fish Friendly Ranching Environmental Certification Program

Sign-Up Form

1. Farm/Ranch Name:
2. Owner or Site Manager who will participate:
3. Site Address:
4. 9-digit Assessors Parcel Number(s) for site (so we can create maps):
5. Total Site Acreage:
6. Irrigated Acreage on Site: _
7. Email Address: _
8. Phone Number: _
9. Fax Number
10. Mailing Address

As part of working with the Fish Friendly Farming Program I agree to complete a farm conservation plan and will work with the FFF program to implement the plan. I will provide access authorization for the planning assessment with 7 days notice and will accompany FFF staff on the assessment.

Landowner Signature

Thank you for your interest in the Fish Friendly Farming!

**California Land Stewardship Institute
550 Gateway Dr. #108, Napa, CA 94558
Phone: 707/253-1226 FAX: 707/253-1708**